

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 2-17 remain in the application. Original independent claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 2 and 5 have been rewritten as independent claims.

The Examiner raised a few objections to the specification in view of spelling errors.

The specification has been amended in accordance with the helpful advice of the Examiner.

The original claims were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The Examiner identified several unclear aspects of the original claims. Most of the 112 rejections pertain to independent claim 1.

Independent claim 1 has been canceled, and claims 2 and 5 have been rewritten as independent claims. It is believed that the amended claims address each of the rejections under 35 USC 112.

Claims 1, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Martin et al. Claims 1, 5, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Augenstein et al. '283. The Examiner identified features of the references that were considered to correspond to the original claims. However, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-4 and 6-15 would be allowed if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph and to include the limitations of the base claim or any intervening claims.

Claim 2 has been amended into independent form with all of the limitations of claim 1, but in a form that is believed to address each of the section 112

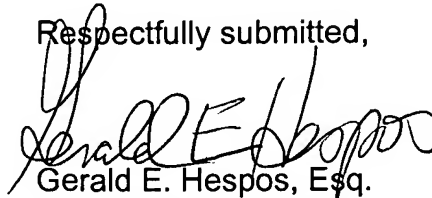
rejections. Accordingly, it is believed that amended claim 2 is in condition for allowance. Claims 3, 4, 16 and 17 all depend from allowable claim 2, and hence should be in condition for allowance.

Counsel has noted the Examiner's conclusion that claim 5 is rejected under 35 USC 102(b) in view of Augenstein et al. '283. Counsel also has noted that the Examiner considers dependent claim 6, 7, 8 and 11 to distinguish over Augenstein et al. Claim 5 had dependent directly from claim 1. Claim 5 now has been amended into independent form with all the limitations of claim 1, but in a form to address the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Additionally, claim 5 has been amended to include certain of the limitations that were in each of allowable claims 6-8 and 11. It is believed that these additional limitations drawn from allowable claims 6-8 and 11 distinguish amended claim 5 patentably from Augenstein et al. Amended claim 5 now clearly defines the ring-shaped magnetic member as being split structure with an inner ring and an outer ring defining a ring-shaped space therebetween. The notches 30 from Augenstein et al. do not teach or suggest the structure as set forth in amended claim 5. Hence, it is believed that amended independent claim 5 is patentable over the prior art. Claims 6-8 and 11 have been amended to delete limitations that were incorporated into amended claim 5. Claims 6-15 depend directly or indirectly from claim 5 and hence are believe to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is believed that the amended claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the number below if further discussions or amendments are

believe to be necessary. Counsel is agreeable to a telephone interview or a personal interview to discuss this application and the amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. Hespos", is written over the typed name.

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